

Mid-East Prophecy Update – March 13th, 2011

- Every week, we set aside a few minutes on Sunday mornings to look at Bible prophecy
- The reason for this is because the Bible predicts certain events that will take place in the last days before the Lord returns.
- We believe that what's happening in the world today is a fulfillment of those Bible Prophecies.
- We look primarily at events in the Middle East, specifically related to Israel because, as it's been said; "Israel is God's prophetic clock."
- For today's update, as I'm sure you've anticipated we will be looking at the prophetic implications of the unimaginable disaster in Japan.
- In order to do that, I'm going to expound on something I sensed the Lord wanted me to post on all of our Facebook pages on Friday.
- I titled the post; "Bible Prophecy Being Fulfilled in Real Time!!!," Much to my delight, many reposted it on their Facebook pages as well.
- While seeing the unspeakable devastation from this mammoth earthquake in Japan, I had to remind myself it wasn't an epic Hollywood movie.
- It's believed that this earthquake was the fifth strongest ever to be recorded in human history, and clearly, it dwarfed all the ones that followed.
- Like I'm sure it was for many of you, I was reminded of what Jesus said when His disciples asked Him about the signs of the end of the world.

Matthew 24:7-8 NIV (7) Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. (8) All these are the beginning of birth pains.

- I've never seen myself as the brightest bulb in the pack, but it seems to me that this prophecy is being fulfilled, even now, in real time.
- That which is taking place in the Middle East, is seemingly the beginning of nation rising against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.
- We're now witnessing an uprising in, of all places, Saudi Arabia, home to Mecca and Medina, all under the "kingdom" rule of Saud.
- In just this one verse 7, Jesus describes this uprising of kingdom against kingdom, then prophecies about famines and earthquakes.
- It's verse 8 that actually makes this prophecy rise to the level of plausibility in its fulfillment by virtue of Jesus likening this to birth pains.
- Also, I find it interesting that this upcoming "Super-Moon" on March 19th, could even now be triggering that which we see happening.

On Friday, March 11th, The Washington Post posted an article titled; The "SuperMoon" and the Japan earthquake - On March 19, the moon's orbit will make its closest approach to Earth in 18 years while at the same time be in full phase. Such a coincidence has been named a "SuperMoon" by [astrologer Richard Nolle](#). ...Nolle predicts all kinds of weather and natural hazard mayhem, including strong earthquakes, around the time of the Supermoon. So the questions that emerge are: 1) Is there any legitimate science linking the Supermoon and extreme natural hazards? and, 2) Did the upcoming Supermoon play a role in this morning's horrific earthquake in Japan, [the fifth most powerful on record](#)? ...one ... pointed out that the last extreme supermoon occurred on January 10, 2005, right around the time of the 9.0 Indonesia earthquake. ...Hurricane Katrina made land on the Gulf Coast on Aug. 29, 2005, which was 10 days after the SuperMoon for that month.

http://voices.washingtonpost.com/capitalweathergang/2011/03/the_supermoon_and_the_japan_ea.html

- Let me hasten to say; this theory is not without its critics claiming they've debunked it. However, others present their scientific proof as well.
- Be that as it may, it would most certainly behoove us to consider a prophecy from Jesus Himself, recorded in the Gospel of Luke 21:25-26.

Luke 21:25-26 NIV (25) "There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. (26) Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken.

- The word "earthquake" is found 19 times in the Word of God, seven of which are in the book of Revelation chapters six through sixteen.
- What's so interesting about this is, these chapters contain graphic detail about the devastation hurled on the earth during the tribulation.
- I truly believe we're seeing the beginning of that which will ultimately be fulfilled during the seven-year period, the great tribulation.

Revelation 8:5 NIV Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it on the earth; and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake.

Revelation 11:13, 19 NIV (13) At that very hour there was a severe earthquake and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven. (19) Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a great hailstorm.

- Perhaps this would be a good time to address the commonly asked question of why God allows natural disasters like this to happen.
- The short answer is that events like this are often times what it takes to shake people up and wake people up to the reality of eternity.
- When disasters happen, they force us to loosen our grip on this world. God wants us right with Him and ready for Him when He returns.
- It's for this reason that He tells us what's going to happen, before it happens, so that when it does actually happen, we would believe.

John 14:29 NIV I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe.

- Maybe the question becomes, "OK, so what is it that we should do in light of this, and what can I be doing about this?" The answer is twofold.
- First we can posture ourselves with our heads bowed down in prayer for those suffering unthinkable loss and for the salvation of the lost.
- Secondly, our heads should be lifted up in anticipation of the rapture of the church of Jesus Christ. This is what Jesus said in Luke's Gospel:

Luke 21:28 NIV When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

- Lastly, I would humbly and simply ask; "are you ready?" If not, I'm begging you to not put this off, because there is no time left. He's coming!!!
- Jesus said His coming would be as a thief in the night, catching many by surprise. Please don't be amongst those who are left behind!!!

Matthew 24:44 Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. NKJV